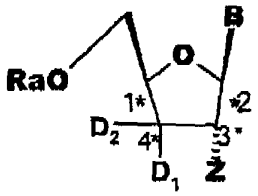
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment ~~or prevention~~ of an hepatitis C infection in a host comprising administering to said host a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(Ib)

wherein

B is a nucleotide purine radical, a nucleotide pyrimidine radical or an analogue of a nucleotide purine radical or a nucleotide pyrimidine radical,

wherein said analogue is derived by replacement of a CH moiety by a nitrogen atom in a nucleotide purine or pyrimidine radical, replacement of a nitrogen atom by a CH moiety in a nucleotide purine or pyrimidine radical, or both; or derived by removal of ring substituents of said nucleotide purine radical or pyrimidine radical; or combinations thereof; and said analogue is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, amino, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

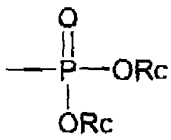
Ra is H,

monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate,

carbonyl which is substituted by a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl having up to 6 C atoms wherein the alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ,

C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$,

COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{6-10} aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or



;

Rc is, in each case independently, H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{6-10} aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or a hydroxy protecting group;

Q is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Z is ORb;

Rb is H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{1-6} acyl, or a hydroxy protecting group;

D_1 and D_2 are each independently N_3, F, or H, wherein D_1 and D_2 are not both H; or D_1 and D_2 together form $=CH_2$, $=CF_2$, or C_3-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by ~~or substituted by~~ halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, ~~$=CH_2$, or $=CF_2$;~~ ~~with the proviso that when B is adenine, Z is ORb, D_1 is H, D_2 is H and Rb is H, Ra is not triphosphate or H~~.

2. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein Z is OH.

3. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2 wherein D_1 is H and D_2 is F.

4. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, or triphosphate.

5. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2 wherein Ra is triphosphate.

6. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2 wherein Ra is H.

7. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, or triphosphate.

8. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3 wherein Ra is triphosphate.

9. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3 wherein Ra is H.

10. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 3-carboxamido-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, 3-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 3-deaza-guanin-9-yl, 3-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl 3-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 7-

deaza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 5-aza-thymin-1-yl, 5-aza-cytosin-1-yl, 5-aza-uracil-1-yl, 6-aza-thymin-1-yl, 6-aza-cytosin-1-yl, or 6-aza-uracil-1-yl;

which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

11. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 3-carboxamido-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, 3-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 3-deaza-guanin-9-yl, 3-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 3-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl 3-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-adenin-9-yl, 7-deaza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 7-deaza-8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-adenin-9-yl, 8-aza-guanin-9-yl, 8-aza-inosin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 8-aza-2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, 5-aza-thymin-1-yl, 5-aza-cytosin-1-yl, 5-aza-uracil-1-yl, 6-aza-thymin-1-yl, 6-aza-cytosin-1-yl, or 6-aza-uracil-1-yl;

which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

12. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, 5-fluoro-cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 5-fluorouracil or 1,2,4-triazole-3-carboxamide base.

13. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein B is adenin-9-

yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, 5-fluoro-cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, 5-fluorouracil or 1,2,4-triazole-3-carboxamide base.

14. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is:

3'-fluoro-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-fluoro-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-fluoro 3'-deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-fluoro 3'-deoxycytidine-5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'-deoxyguanosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'-deoxyguanosine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'-deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-spirocyclopropyl-3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'- difluoro-spirocyclopropyl-3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically

acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-methylene-3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-difluromethylene 3'- deoxycytidine -5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

3'-azido-3'- deoxycytidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or

3'-azido-3'- deoxycytidine 5'triphosphate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.

16. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2, further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.

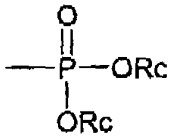
17. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3, further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.

18. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 14, further comprising administering at least one further therapeutic agent chosen from interferon, interferon α-2a, interferon α-2b, consensus interferon, ribavirin, amantadine, rimantadine, interleukine-12, ursodeoxycholic acid, glycyrrhizin and silybum marianum.

19. (Cancelled):

20. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein

Ra is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, carbonyl substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, or C_{6-10} aryl or



Rc is, in each case independently, H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{6-10} aryl or a hydroxy protecting group selected from acetyl-2-thioethyl ester, pivaloyloxymethyl ester and isopropyloxycarbonyloxymethyl ester; and

Rb is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} acyl, or a hydroxy protecting group selected from acetyl-2-thioethyl ester, pivaloyloxymethyl ester and isopropyloxycarbonyloxymethyl ester.

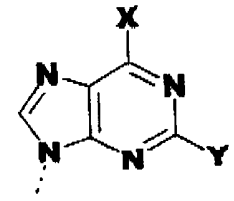
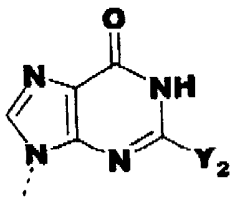
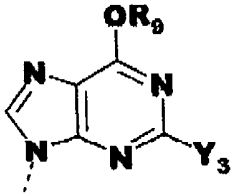
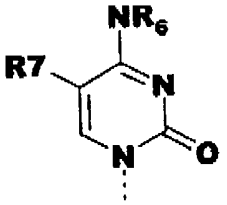
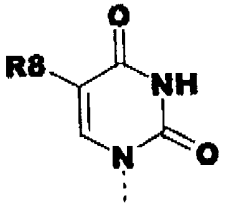
21. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, inosin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, or 3-carboxamido-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

22. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein B is adenin-9-yl, guanin-9-yl, 2-amino-purin-9-yl, 2-amino-6-chloro-purin-9-yl, 2-6-diamino-purin-9-yl, thymin-1-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

23. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein B is guanin-9-yl, cytosin-1-yl, uracil-1-yl, which in each case is unsubstituted or substituted by at least one of NHR_3, C_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, Br, Cl, F, I or OH, wherein R_3 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

24. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein B is guanin-9-yl, cytosin-1-yl, 5'-fluoro-cytosin-1-yl, 5'-fluorouracil -1-yl or uracil-1-yl.

25. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein B is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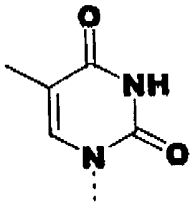

;

wherein

X is H, halogen or NHR_{10};

R_{10} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Y is H, halogen or NHR_{11};

R_{11} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Y_2 is H, halogen or NHR_{12};

R_{12} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

R_9 is H, hydroxy protecting group, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Y_3 is H, halogen or NHR_{13};

R_{13} is H, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

R_7 is H, halogen, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl; and

R_8 is H, halogen, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl.

26. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 25, wherein X is H, F, or NHR_{10}, R_{10} is H, Y is H, F, or NHR_{11}, R_{11} is H, Y_2 is H, F, or NHR_{12}, R_{12} is H, R_9 is H, Y_3 is H, F, or NHR_{13}, R_{13} is H, R_7 is H, F, or C_{1-6} alkyl, and R_8 is H, F, or C_{1-6} alkyl.

27. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein Z is F or ORb, and Rb is H or methyl.

28. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein D_1 and D_2 are N_3, F, or H in which D_1 and D_2 are not both H, or D_1 and D_2 together form cyclopropyl, difluorocyclopropyl $-=CH_2$, or $-=CF_2$.

29. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein said compound is administered in an amount of 0.01 to about 750 mg/kg of body weight per day.

30. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein said compound is administered in unit dosages containing 10 to 1500 mg of said compound per unit dosage.

31. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 15, wherein said compound and said further therapeutic agent are each administered as a formulation which further contains a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 31, wherein said compound and said further therapeutic agent are sequentially administered, in separate or combined pharmaceutical formulations.

33. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 31, wherein said compound and said further therapeutic agent are simultaneously administered, in separate or combined pharmaceutical formulations.

34. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said host is a

human.

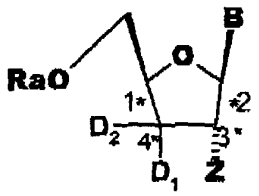
35. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein said host is a human.

36. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein said host is a human.

37. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein said host is a human.

38. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein said host is a human.

39. (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment ~~or prevention~~ of an hepatitis C infection in a host comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(Ib)

wherein

B is a nucleotide purine radical, a nucleotide pyrimidine radical or an analogue of a nucleotide purine radical or a nucleotide pyrimidine radical,
wherein said analogue is derived by replacement of a CH moiety by a nitrogen atom in a nucleotide purine or pyrimidine radical, replacement of a nitrogen atom by a CH moiety in a nucleotide purine or pyrimidine radical, or both; or derived by removal of ring substituents of said nucleotide purine radical or pyrimidne

radical; or combinations thereof; and said analogue is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, amino, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

Ra is H,

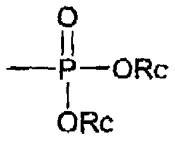
monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate,

carbonyl which is substituted by a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl having up to 6 C atoms wherein the alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ,

C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ,

C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ,

C_{6-10} aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or



;

Rc is, in each case independently, H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{6-10} aryl which is unsubstituted or mono- or di-substituted with OH, SH, amino, halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or a hydroxy protecting group;

Q is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, or C_{2-6} alkynyl;

Z is ORb;

Rb is H, straight chain, branched chain or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{2-6} alkynyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, C_{1-6} acyl, or a hydroxy protecting group;

D_1 and D_2 are each independently N_3, F, or H, wherein D_1 and D_2 are not both H; or

D_1 and D_2 together form $=CH_2$, $=CF_2$, or C_3-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by or substituted by halogen, nitro, $CONH_2$, COOH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, O-C_{2-6} alkenyl, O-C_{2-6} alkynyl, hydroxyl, amino, or COOQ, ~~$=CH_2$, or $=CF_2$~~;

with the provisos that:

~~when B is adenine, Z is ORb, D_1 is H, D_2 is H and Rb is H, Ra is not triphosphate or H,~~

~~and~~

said method does not include administration of an interferon.

40. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 39, wherein said host is a human.